

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

# INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1A

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 14 May 1953

SUBJECT VEB Zuendmittelfabrik, Schoenebeck/Elbe

NO. OF PAGES 5

PLACE  
REQUIRED

25X10 NO. OF ENCLS.

DATE OF  
INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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1. VEB Zuendmittelfabrik, Schoenebeck/Elbe (formerly the Lignose Works), consists of two plants: Sprengstoffwerk I and Sprengstoffwerk II. Sprengstoffwerk II is VEB Jagdpatronenfabrik Schoenebeck. Sprengstoffwerk I is divided into 22 sections or departments; the sections are called Department A, Department B, Department C, etc. About 3,500 workers are currently employed at Sprengstoffwerk I. In mid-January 1953 an order forbidding employees to enter departments other than where they work was put into effect. Visitors to the plant have to turn in their identity papers, cameras, cigarette lighters, matches, tobacco, and the like at the reception office. Visitors are accompanied by two escorts when they visit various buildings and areas. The escorts are women guards. Women guards are also stationed at the entrances to buildings and check the passes of employees and visitors.
2. The entire plant area is surrounded by two parallel barbed-wire fences about two meters apart and 2.5 meters high. The fences are guarded by a detachment of Volkspolizei consisting of about 120 men. In addition, about 20 dogs are used for guard purposes at night. At the main entrance there is, in addition to the barbed-wire fences, a wooden fence about two meters high surmounted by barbed wire; the wooden fence is about twenty meters in front of the barbed-wire fences. Guard towers about ten meters high are located every hundred meters along the fence. On the roof of each tower there is a search light which can be rotated. The towers are manned by two to four Volkspolizei at all times. At night the outside fence is illuminated by lights spaced every 25 meters along the fence. The towers are between the two barbed wire fences and extend from one fence to the other, thus forming an enclosed area. Watch dogs run loose in the area bounded by the two fences and two watch towers.
3. As far as could be determined, the plant is producing the following products:
  - loading of cartridges for 5 cm., 7.5 cm., and 8.8 cm. projectiles
  - fuse cord for the mining industry
  - detonating cord
  - explosive charges of 100, 250, 500, 1,000, and 3,000 grams

The explosive charges manufactured do not differ in regard to outward design from those manufactured for the German Army. 2/

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4. Black powder is delivered by VEB Jagdpatronenfabrik (Sprengstoffwerk II), where infantry ammunition as well as small caliber ammunition is being manufactured.
5. Material or products are usually shipped from the factory in complete trains of 35 cars or in half trains; normally, however, the trains split up in Leipzig/Ingelsdorf. There are no markings on the railroad cars to indicate that they are carrying explosives.

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- 1/ [REDACTED] Comment. See Attachments for sketch of the factory area. The sketches [REDACTED] are not to scale. The underground buildings indicated on Attachment A could not be completely seen; [REDACTED] they are manufacturing plants, since during World War II a disastrous explosion occurred at the plant, and the manufacturing facilities were re-designed to prevent such accidents in the future. The buildings called warehouses are presumed to be such because of their design, that is, with loading platforms and access roads. The entire center area of the plant is wooded, [REDACTED] there are many more buildings and installations than indicated on the sketches.

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- 2/ [REDACTED] Comment. See Attachment C for a sketch of the explosive charges.

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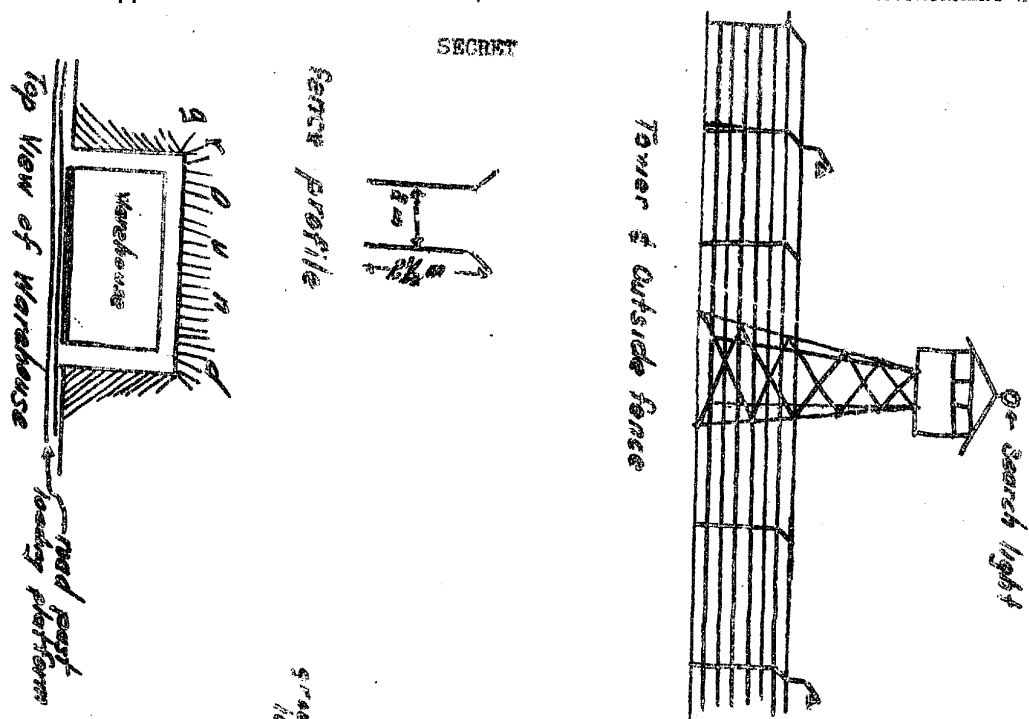
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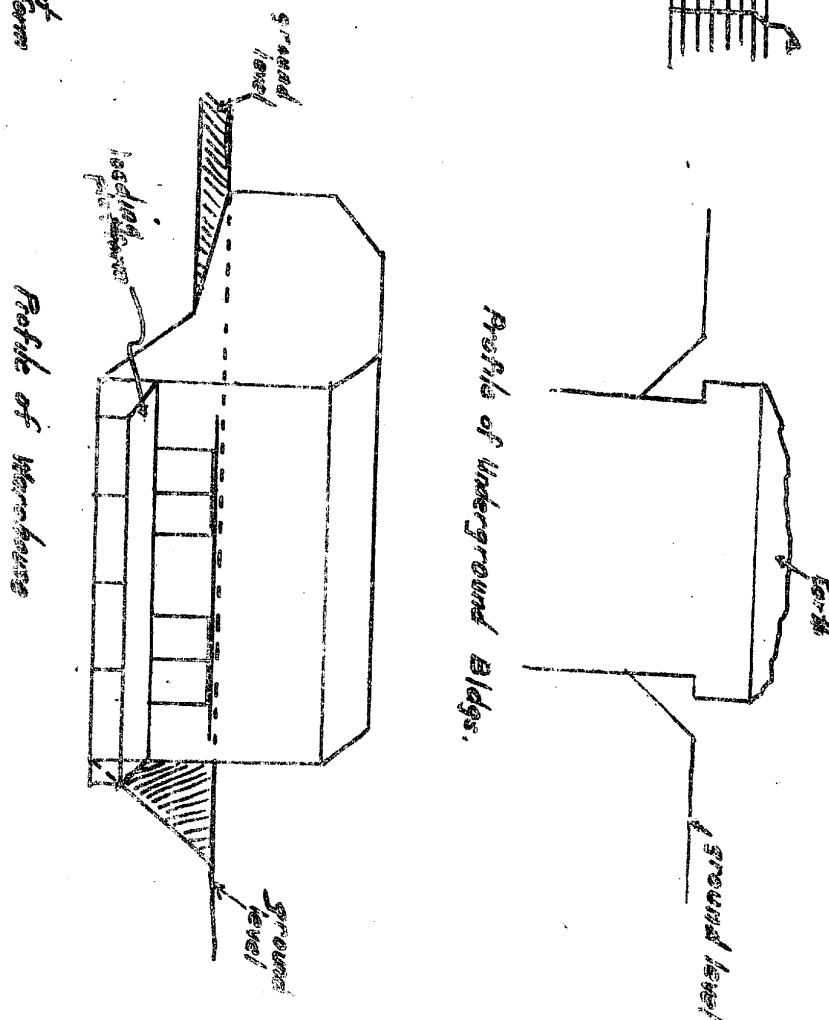


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Attachment B

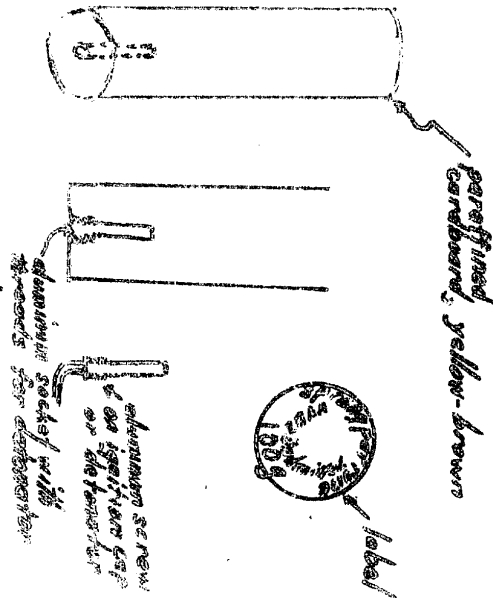


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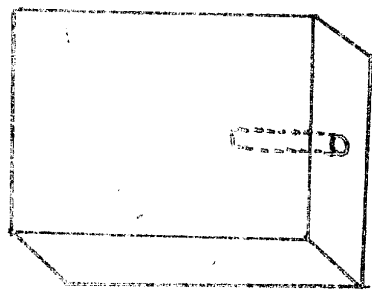
ATTACHMENT C

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1000 gm Explosive Charge

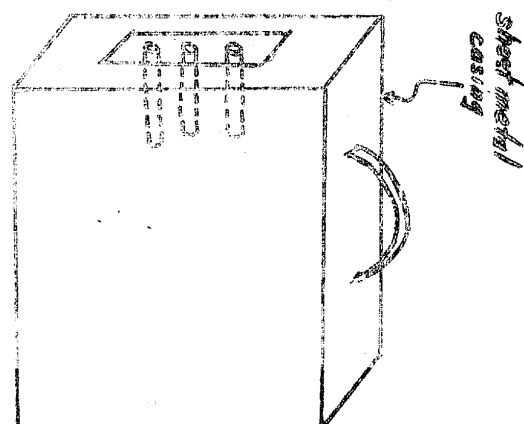


250 gm Explosive Charge



Sheet metal casing

1000 gm Explosive Charge



Attachment C

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